

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 12206 01 OF 02 011711Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 ACDA-12 /090 W
-----034420 011720Z /47

O P 011659Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8696
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 12206

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDEV UK RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: REACTION TO CASE/JAVITS

1. FCO HAS PASSED TO US A CABLE FROM FRASER WILSON AT MIRIMBA HOUSE IN SALISBURY ON THE REACTION IN RHODESIA TO THE SENATE VOTE ON THE CASE/JAVITS AMENDMENT. FOLLOWING CONVERSATIONS WITH SAVORY AND REYNOLDS OF THE NUF, WILSON REPORTS THAT THE OFFICIALLY CONTROLLED RHODESIAN MEDIA HAS DISTORTED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE VOTE; HE SUGGESTS A HIGH-LEVEL CLARIFYING STATEMENT TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT. REMARKS BY A SENIOR OFFICIAL WOULD BE CORRECTLY REPORTED IN RHODESIA, WILSON SAYS.

2. IN PASSING MESSAGE, FCO (LAVER AND SPENCER) TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT A STATEMENT BY OWEN WOULD BE IN-APPROPRIATE BUT SECRETARY VANCE MAY WANT TO TAKE AN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 12206 01 OF 02 011711Z

OPPORTUNITY TO DESCRIBE PUBLICLY THE IMPORT OF THE SENATE VOTE.

3. COMMENT: TOO MUCH TIME MAY HAVE PASSED FOR THE SECRETARY TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON CASE/JAVITS, BUT AMBASSADOR LOW MAY BE ABLE TO CORRECT SOME OF THE MISIMPRESSIONS WHEN HE ARRIVES IN SALISBURY.

4. BEGIN TEXT OF MIRIMBA 312: ALLAN SAVORY AND LANCE REYNOLDS OF THE NATIONAL UNIFYING FRONT (NUF) CAME TO SEE ME ON SATURDAY TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN OVER THE MISREPRESENTATION IN THE RHODESIAN NEWS MEDIA OF THE RESULT OF THE US SENATE VOTE ON SANCTIONS. THEY SAID THEY WERE DISTURBED THAT IT WAS BEING MADE TO APPEAR A VICTORY FOR THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. THE NUF HAD ISSUED A STATEMENT POINTING OUT THAT IT HAD BEEN MADE CLEAR THAT THERE WOULD BE NO REDUCTION OF PRESSURE THROUGH THE LIFTING OF SANCTIONS UNTIL THERE WAS A SOLUTION WHICH CAME THROUGH A CONFERENCE WHICH INCLUDED THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. THIS STATEMENT WAS CARRIED IN A FOUR PARAGRAPH REPORT ON PAGE 7 OF THE RHODESIA HERALD AND WAS, THEY BELIEVE, NOT, THEREFORE, BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF MOST WHITE RHODESIANS.

SAVORY STRESSED THAT THE MEDIA IN RHODESIA IS SO CONTROLLED THAT ANY INTERPRETATION OF THE SENATE VOTE CONTRARY TO THE "AUTHORIZED VERSION" WOULD BE SIMILARLY SUPPRESSED UNLESS IT CAME FROM YOU OR MR. VANCE. HE BELIEVED THAT WHITE OPINION WAS BEING DIVERTED FROM THE NEED FOR AN ALL PARTY CONFERENCE BY ASSURANCES THAT THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT WILL EVENTUALLY BE RECOGNIZED. HE CLAIMED THAT THE RHODESIA HERALD HAS ALWAYS CARRIED ACCURATE FRONT PAGE REPORTS ON ANYTHING YOU OR MR. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LONDON 12206 01 OF 02 011711Z

VANCE HAS SAID. THUS IT COULD ENORMOUSLY INFLUENCE WHITE OPINION IF EITHER OF YOU STATED THE TRUE OUTCOME OF THE SENATE VOTE AND THE DANGERS INHERENT IN REFUSING ALL PARTY TALKS. HE HOPED SUCH A STATEMENT MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 12206 02 OF 02 011709Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 ACDA-12 /090 W

-----034406 011720Z /47

O P 011659Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8697

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 12206

THEY SAID THAT WHITES WERE BEING PERSUADED NOT TO CRITICIZE THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT BY BEING TOLD: FIRST, THAT A CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT IN BRITAIN WOULD RECOGNIZE THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT, THEN THAT THE US SENATE WOULD LIFT SANCTIONS NOW THAT SECRET TALKS WERE BEING HELD (SIC). THUS THEY MUST NOT ROCK THE BOAT. IN THIS WAY THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT COULD CONTINUE ITS PROGRESS WITHOUT ANY EFFECTIVE OPPOSITION.

COMMENT: THE LOCAL MEDIA HAS INDEED PLAYED DOWN SOME OF THE ASPECTS OF THE SENATE VOTE AND HAS DESCRIBED IT AS A SIGN OF INCREASING SUPPORT FOR THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. (THURSDAY'S RHODESIA HERALD CARRIED THE HEADLINE, "US SENATE TO LIFT BAN IF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 12206 02 OF 02 011709Z

PROGRESS IS MADE"). THIS LINE APPEARS TO RESULT FROM A GOVERNMENT DIRECTIVE SINCE THE INITIAL REPORT ON RBC WAS A FACTUAL ONE SAYING THAT THE DECISION HAD BEEN NOT TO LIFT SANCTIONS. THE NEXT NEWS BULLETIN, THREE HOURS LATER, CARRIED A REPORT SLANTED TO THE VIEW THAT THIS WAS IN FACT MORE OF A VICTORY THAN OF A DEFEAT. WHITES APPEAR TO BE VERY CONFUSED AT THE MOMENT BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT SOME ARE BEGINNING ONCE AGAIN TO BELIEVE THAT THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT COULD WIN THROUGH. END TEXT

BREWSTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, SANCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LONDON12206
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780314-1042
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808113/aaaadqqn.tel
Line Count: 168
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e62c6b59-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1579816
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: REACTION TO CASE/JAVITS
TAGS: PDEV, UK, RH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e62c6b59-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014